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R E T U R N

To an Address from the Legislative Assembly to His Excellency the Governor General, dated the 3rd inst., praying His Excellency to cause to be laid before the House "all Papers and Documents, Reports, Despatches, etc., in relation to opening up the Territory commonly called the North-West Territory, which have come into possession of the Government since the 1st January, 1862."

By Command.

A. J. FERGUSSON BLAIR,

Secretary.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Quebec, 21st September, 1863.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Quebec, 17th September, 1863.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 4th instant, enclosing a copy of an Address of the Legislative Assembly, asking for copies of all papers and documents, reports, despatches, &c., in relation to opening up the Territory commonly called "the North-West Territory," which have come into possession of the Government since the 1st January, 1862, and asking that such portion of the information asked for in that Address as the records of this Department will enable the Postmaster General to supply, may be furnished to you to be laid before the Legislative Assembly, and, in reply, I have the honor to inform you that, with the exception of the papers transmitted to you to-day in accordance with the request conveyed in your letter of the 28th April last, there are not, so far as the Postmaster General is aware, any such papers, documents, &c., as those referred to, in this Department.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your very obedient servant,

W. H. GRIFFIN,
D. P. M. G.

The Honorable
The Provincial Secretary, &c., &c., &c

[Copy.]

No. 44.

QUEBEC, March 8th, 1862.

MY LORD DUKE,—I have the honor to enclose to your Grace a Minute of the Executive Council, approved by myself, in reference to the propriety of taking some steps towards carrying into effect, in the Saskatchewan territory, the provisions of the Act of the Imperial Parliament 22 and 23 Victoria, Chapter 26.

The Minute states so fully the reasons for present action in this matter in which I fully concur, that I do not think it necessary to trouble your Grace with any observations of my own on the subject.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

MONCK.

To His Grace

The Duke of Newcastle,
&c., &c.

[Copy.]

Canada.—No. 96.

DOWNING STREET,
16th April, 1862.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No. 44, of the 8th March, forwarding a Minute of a Committee of the Executive Council of Canada, in reference to the propriety of taking some steps towards carrying into effect, in the Saskatchewan Territory, the provisions of the Imperial Act, 22 and 23 Vict. Cap. 26.

This Minute proceeds on an assumption that a certain Act of Parliament was passed in order to organize the Saskatchewan County. But I have to explain that this was not the effect of the Act referred to. It contained an enactment in the concluding section, that it should not be applicable to territories heretofore granted to the Hudson's Bay Company. Those territories not having fallen under the jurisdiction of Her Majesty's Government, the Act in question does not in any degree facilitate the acquisition or Government of the territory claimed by the Company under this grant, nor until the claim of the Company is shewn to be groundless will Her Majesty's Government be in a position to take any step in that direction.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

NEWCASTLE.

Governor the Viscount Monck,

&c., &c., &c.

[Copy.]

No. 79.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

QUEBEC, April 25th, 1862.

MY LORD DUKE,—I have the honor to forward to your Grace a Minute of the Executive Council, approved by me, on the subject of the establishment of a postal communication through the Hudson's Bay territory, between Canada and British Columbia, containing a letter from the Provincial Secretary to the Manager of the Hudson's Bay Company, and that gentleman's reply.

The subject is one of considerable importance, both in an Imperial point of view and as regards the particular interests of this Province; but the letter of Mr. Alleyne enters so fully into the merits of the question on both grounds, that I do not think it necessary to trouble your Grace with any observations of my own.

The answer of Mr. Dallas would seem to imply that the existence of the present rights of the Hudson's Bay Company will prove a permanent obstacle to the realization of the views which the Canadian Government entertain in reference to the proposed communication.

As the Government of the Province have no means of acting upon the Hudson's Bay Company except through Her Majesty's ministers, I would, on its behalf, ask of your Grace to take such steps as may enable the authorities here to carry into execution their desire for an extension of postal communication between this Province and the shores of the Pacific.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

MONCK.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K. G.,
&c., &c., &c.

[Copy.]

Canada.—No. 124.

DOWNING STREET,
3rd June, 1862.

19th May.
Enclosure of Com-
pany's letter,
same as those
forwarded in
Governor's des-
patch.

My LORD,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No 79, of the 25th April last, and to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Hudson's Bay Company (received at this Department a few days after your despatch reached me) on the subject of establishing postal and telegraphic communication through the Company's territory between Canada and British Columbia.

Although it is not in the power of Her Majesty's Government to grant assistance from Imperial funds for carrying out the object which the Canadian Government has in view, there would be every desire on their part to co-operate in any well-devised scheme for effecting this important communication across the American continent. As a possible preliminary to such an undertaking, I would direct your Lordship's attention to the facilities for the acquisition of land which the Hudson's Bay Company announce their intention of offering to settlers proceeding to the Red River.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) NEWCASTLE.

Governor the Viscount Monck,
&c., &c., &c.

[Copy.]

HUDSON'S BAY HOUSE,
London, May 19th, 1862.

MY LORD DUKE,—I have the honor to enclose, for Your Grace's information, copy of a correspondence that has passed between Mr. Charles Alleyn, Secretary to the Government of Canada, and Mr. Dallas, who has lately succeeded Sir George Simpson in the Government of the Hudson's Bay Territory in North America, on the subject of a proposed road and line of telegraphic communication between Canada and the gold regions of British Columbia.

I take the liberty of forwarding this correspondence to Your Grace, because my colleagues agree with me that any negotiation on the subject should be carried on not with the colonial authorities but with Her Majesty's Government in this country.

The Canadian Government propose, in the first instance, to establish steam communication on Lake Superior, and to open up roads from Fort William in the direction of Red River; and they appear to consider that it is the duty of the Hudson's Bay Company to undertake the further prosecution of the work through their territories.

Of course there is no difficulty as far as steamers on Lake Superior are concerned, but between Fort William and the heights of land, the natural difficulties of the country will make road-making a very expensive business; while the soil which consists chiefly of rock and swamp, will offer no inducement to settlers, even if they obtain the land for nothing.

Within the last few years a considerable sum of money has been granted and expended by the Canadian Government for the purpose of opening this route, but I am not aware that there has been any practical result.

Beyond Red River to the base of the Rocky Mountains, the line will pass through a vast desert, in some places without wood or water, exposed to the incursions of roving bands of Indians, and entirely destitute of any means of subsistence for emigrants, save herds of buffalo which roam at large through the plains and whose presence on any particular portion of these prairies can never be reckoned on. These again are followed up by Indians in pursuit of food, whose hostility will expose travellers to the greatest danger.

With regard to the establishment of a telegraphic communication it is scarcely necessary to point at the prairie fires, the depredation of natives, and the general chapter of accidents as presenting almost insurmountable obstacles to its success.

I have thought it my duty thus slightly to sketch the difficulties in the way of the enterprise, the subject of the correspondence which I have brought under your Grace's notice; but if it be thought that the interests of Canada and British Columbia, or of this country, require that the experiment should be made, the Hudson's Bay Company will

most readily acquiesce in the decision of Her Majesty's Government. At the same time it is my duty to state that in justice to our proprietors, the Directors of the Hudson's Bay Company cannot risk their capital in doubtful undertakings of this description, spread over such vast distances, through a country where the means of maintaining them, if once made, will lead to an expenditure scarcely to be contemplated. Although, therefore, the Directors on behalf of the Company, are ready to lend Her Majesty's Government all the moral support and assistance in their power, it must be distinctly understood that the Company have no means at their disposal, beyond those employed in carrying on their trade, and cannot consequently undertake any outlay in connection with the schemes suggested by the Canadian Government.

I think it may not be improper to take this opportunity of referring your Grace to former communications between the Hudson's Bay Company and the Colonial Office on the subject of settlement in their territories.

The Company have always expressed their willingness to surrender the whole or any part of the territorial rights upon terms that would secure fair compensation to the proprietors as well as to the officers and employés in the country.

The Governor at Red River Colony has instructions to make grants of land to settlers on easy conditions, without any restrictions as to the Company's right of exclusive trade; and if Her Majesty's Government, with reference to the interests of the public, consider more extensive plans for the improvement of the country expedient, the Directors of the Company will be quite ready to entertain them with the desire to meet the wishes of Her Majesty's Government in any manner not inconsistent with the vested rights of the constituents.

I am, &c.,

(Signed,)

W. BERENS,
Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

[Copy.]

Canada.—No. 115!

DOWNING STREET,
10th May, 1862.

MY LORD,—With reference to my despatch, No. 96, of the 16th April, I have the honor to transmit to your Lordship, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Hudson Bay Company, on the state of the Saskatchewan and Red River territory. It is not intended to comply with the company's suggestion that a detachment of troops should be again sent to the Red River.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

NEWCASTLE.

The Viscount Monck,
&c., &c., &c.

[Copy.]

HUDSON'S BAY HOUSE,
London, May 1st, 1862.

MY LORD DUKE,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Elliot's letter, dated the 23rd ultimo, transmitting a copy of a despatch received by your Grace from the Governor of Canada, and a minute of the Executive Council, in which the attention of Her Majesty's Government is drawn to the propriety of establishing a Government in the Saskatchewan and Red River country.

As Mr. Elliot states that your Grace is already aware that the minute in question was passed by the Executive Council of Canada, under a misconception as to the meaning and

object of the Act 28 and 29 Victoria, Cap. 26, I am relieved of the necessity of making any comment upon the subject.

With respect to your Grace's enquiry as to whether we have reason to apprehend any inconvenience or disturbance from the influx of American squatters across the frontier or otherwise, I have the honor to state that from the advices received from our agents at Red River and elsewhere, we do not believe that there is any reason to apprehend any unusual influx of American citizens into the company's territory. There are, as usual, a few petty traders from the American settlements on the Mississippi who pass the frontier with a view of purchasing furs, and who, we fear, are not likely to improve the condition of the natives; but we have no reason to apprehend any increase in the number of those traders at present, and we do not believe that American settlers will leave a better climate and an equally good soil for the sake of settling in the company's territories, where the land is further from a market. At the same time, I must not conceal from your Grace my opinion, that it is not right that the frontier should remain totally unprotected from incursions either of lawless American citizens or the equally lawless tribes of Indians belonging to the territory of the United States.

There is another cause from which danger to the settlement is apprehended, and to which I would beg to draw Your Grace's attention. We are informed that exaggerated reports of the discovery of gold in the head-waters of the Saskatchewan have been widely circulated both in the United States and in Canada, and that an apprehension exists at Red River that a very large number of people will flock into the country in consequence of these rumors. We have reason to believe that the discovery of gold in those regions at all, or at all events in any quantity, is extremely doubtful, and that that district, which is very inaccessible, offers no inducement to Americans or others to proceed thither. Mr. Mactavish, the company's principal agent at Red River, in a letter dated the 25th of February last, says: "From Saskatchewan I have no advices of any further gold discoveries. I understand that an American adventurer—who crossed from Fraser's River in the autumn of 1860, and remained in the district all summer for the purpose of exploring for gold—did make a short tour among the mountains, but he appears to have met with no success, as he returned to one of the company's establishments and there joined a band of Indians, with whom he has since lived."

Your Grace is aware that the small body of Canadian Rifles stationed at Red River was withdrawn last year, and I confess that it would be a great comfort to myself and my colleagues if the place of those troops were supplied by a fresh detachment; as this would evince a determination on the part of Her Majesty's Government to assist the company in holding the country against foreign invaders, and in maintaining peace and good order among the British inhabitants of the Red River Settlement.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

H. H. BERENS,
Governor.

Canada.—No. 49.

DOWNING STREET,

1st May, 1863.

MY LORD.—I enclose copies of a letter addressed to me by Mr. Watkin, on behalf of 28th April, 1863: the "Atlantic and Pacific Transit and Telegraph Company," and transmitting the heads of a proposal made by that Company for establishing Telegraphic and Postal communication from Lake Superior to New Westminster.

I also enclose copies of the answer which I have caused to be returned to that letter, and of a despatch which I have addressed to the Governor of Vancouver's Island.

From these you will perceive that I value highly the advantages promised by this scheme—taken, as it ought to be, as part of a large scheme for connecting, through British territory, the shores of the Atlantic with those of the Pacific,—that I am prepared to accede, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, to the grant of land contemplated in the third article of the "heads of proposal," and that I have recommended the project to the acceptance of the Colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver's Island, subject to such modifications of detail (if any) as further examination may shew to be necessary.

With this information, I should wish you to submit the proposal for the consideration of your Government.

Governor Viscount Monck,
&c., &c., &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed,)

NEWCASTLE.

[Copy.]

[*Mr. Watkin to the Duke of Newcastle.*]

21, OLD BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.
April 28th, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,—Referring to the letter which I had the honor to receive by direction of your Grace, from Mr. Elliot, under date of the 5th ultimo, to the interview which your Grace was good enough subsequently to afford to Mr. G.G. Glynn, M.P., Mr. Benson, Mr. Blake, Mr. Chapman and myself, and to the discussions which have recently taken place, on general details, under your Grace's instructions, with Sir Frederic Rogers and Mr. Murdoch, I have now to enclose proposals, which I trust will meet your Grace's approval, for the establishment of a postal and telegraphic route between Canada and the Pacific Ocean.

—It is hoped that these proposals will be found to be such as your Grace may be able to recommend; and that their adoption by Her Majesty's Government, by Canada, by British Columbia, and by Vancouver Island, may lead to the completion of the most important work involved, at a very early period.

Throughout the discussion which has now occupied a considerable period, it has been assumed as a condition, that the Hudson Bay Company will agree to the confirmation of the grant, and consequent rights, which in their letter to your Grace of the 11th August last, they offered to afford in aid of the enterprise, and that Her Majesty's Government will carry through such measures as are requisite for securing to the Company the rights and privileges necessary to the security of the undertaking, and considering the deep interest which your Grace has taken in proposals for connecting the Atlantic and Pacific for purposes of communication through British territory, from the first suggestion of such a measure by Your Grace to this moment, the promoters of the Company have had pleasure in voluntarily adding, as a concluding article of the enclosed document, a provision, that any further questions of detail, or matters of difference should any arise, shall be left to the sole decision of your Grace.

I have to observe that the rate of interest to be secured to the Company, when it was assumed that Her Majesty's Government would take a direct part in the guarantee, was four per cent. as a minimum; but at the same time it was proposed that, in the event of the colonies alone becoming responsible, a larger rate of interest would be considered necessary. A reference to the documents will shew that this was the case. In the enclosed paper therefore the maximum rate of interest has been taken at five per cent, while a minimum of four per cent. is preserved, and it will be for your Grace, should the colonies decide to accept the proposals, to accord, as between the parties, such a rate, and such a rate only, as the circumstances of the time may render necessary, with a view to securing the absolute success of the undertaking.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

EDWARD W. WATKIN.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K. G.,
&c., &c., &c.,

[Copy.]

Heads of Proposal for establishing Telegraphic and Postal Communication from Lake Superior to New Westminster.

The "Atlantic and Pacific Transit and Telegraph Company" propose to establish and maintain communication by electric telegraph, and a mail post, passing at such intervals fortnightly or otherwise as shall be agreed upon between a point at the head of Lake Superior and New Westminster, in British Columbia, on the following terms:—

1. That the Imperial Government, the colonies of Canada and British Columbia, and the Hudson's Bay Company, shall each within the territories belonging to them, grant to the Company such land belonging to the Crown or Company, and all such rights as may be required for the post route, telegraph and necessary stations, and for the proper working thereof.

2. The line of telegraph shall be divided into proper sections, and so soon as telegraphic communication is established throughout any such section, the colonies of Canada, Vancouver Island, and British Columbia will guarantee to the Company a rate of profit on the capital expended at the rate of not less than four, nor more than five per cent, provided that the total amount of the capital guaranteed shall be limited at £500,000, and that the total annual payment to be made by Vancouver Island and British Columbia together, shall not exceed £12,500; provided also, that the interest accruing upon the money paid up by the shareholders, until the above guarantee shall take effect, shall be reckoned as capital; and provided further, that in case the telegraphic line shall not be completed within five years, unless by reason of war or commotion, or of any interruption not arising from any wilful default of the company, the above guarantee shall be suspended till the line shall be so completed.

3. In case the route shall run through Crown Land not within the limits of Canada or British Columbia, nor within the territory claimable by the Hudson's Bay Company, the Company shall be entitled to demand Crown grants to the extent of five square miles for every mile of telegraph line within such Crown Land. Such grants shall be demandable as soon as the telegraph communication shall be completed across such Crown Land, and the blocks granted shall be adjacent to the telegraph line, and shall be as near as may be five miles square, and shall alternate on each side of the line with blocks of similar size and frontage, which shall remain in the possession of the Crown. The Company is not to sell this land except under effectual conditions of settlement, and in case the undertaking shall be permanently abandoned, the land not so sold is to revert to the Crown.

4. The Company shall not dispose of the telegraph without the consent of the Imperial Government.

5. The Colonial Governments, within their respective limits, or the Imperial Government in any part of the line, may at any time take temporary possession of the telegraph line, in case the public interest requires it, on payment of a rate of compensation to be hereafter agreed, and Government messages shall, at all times when demanded, have priority over all others.

6. The Home Government, with the consent of the parties, will introduce into Parliament such measures as may be requisite to give effect to this proposal.

7. The telegraph and works, and the servants and agents of the Company, shall be considered as under the protection of the Crown and of the Colonial Governments as fully as if in the settled districts of British North America.

8. The Company and its works shall be exempt from all taxation for a period of thirty years.

9. Any further matters of detail, or questions of difference requiring discussion, to be remitted to the sole decision of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

[Copy.]

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies to Mr. Watkin.

DOWNING STREET, 1st May, 1863.

SIR,—I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to state that he has had much satisfaction in receiving your letter of the 28th ultimo, enclosing the heads of a proposal for

establishing telegraphic and postal communication between Lake Superior and New Westminster, through the agency of the Atlantic and Pacific Transit and Telegraph Company. These proposals call for some observations from His Grace.

New Westminster is named as the Pacific terminus of the road and telegraph. His Grace takes for granted that if the Imperial Government and that of British Columbia should find, on further enquiry, that some other point on the coast would supply a more convenient terminus, the Company would be ready to adopt it.

Article 1.—His Grace sees no objection to the grant of land contemplated in this article, but the "rights" stipulated for are so indeterminate that, without further explanation, they could scarcely be promised in the shape in which they are asked. He anticipates, however, no practical difficulty on this head.

Nos. 1 and 2.—The Duke of Newcastle, on the part of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, sees no objection to the maximum rate of guarantee proposed by the Company, provided that the liability of the colonies is clearly limited to £12,500 per annum. Nor does he think it unfair that the Government guarantee should cover periods of temporary interruption from causes of an exceptional character, and over which the Company has no control. But he thinks it indispensable that the colonies should be sufficiently secured against having to pay, for any lengthened period, an annual sum of £12,500 without receiving the corresponding benefit—that is to say, the benefit of direct telegraphic communication between the seat of Government in Canada and the coast of the Pacific.

It must therefore be understood that the commencement of the undertaking must depend on the willingness of the Canadian Government and Legislature to complete telegraphic communication from the Seat of Government to the point on Lake Superior, at which the Company will take it up;—nor could His Grace strongly urge on the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia the large annual guarantee which this project contemplates, unless there were good reasons to expect that the kindred enterprise of connecting Halifax and Montreal by railway, would be promptly and vigorously proceeded with. It will also be requisite to secure, by formal agreements, that the guarantee shall cease, and the grants of land for railway purposes revert to the grantors, in case of the permanent abandonment of the undertaking, of which abandonment some unambiguous test should be subscribed, such as the suspension of through communication for a stated period.

The Duke of Newcastle does not object to five years as the maximum period for the completion of the undertaking, and he thinks it fair to exclude from that period, or from the period of suspension above mentioned, any time during which any part of the line should be in occupation of a foreign enemy. But injuries from the outbreaks of Indian tribes, and other casualties which are inherent in the nature of the undertaking, must be taken as part of the risks which fall on the conductors of the enterprise, by whose resource and foresight alone they can be averted.

His Grace apprehends that the Crown land contemplated in Article 3, is the territory lying between the eastern boundary of British Columbia and the territory purporting to be granted to the Hudson Bay Company by their charter. His Grace must clearly explain that Her Majesty's Government do not undertake, in performance of this article of the agreement, to go to the expense of settling any questions of disputed boundary, but only to grant land to which the Crown title is clear.

With regard to the 7th Article the Duke of Newcastle could not hold out to the Company the prospect of protection by a military or police force in the uninhabited districts through which their line would pass, but he would consider favorably any proposal for investing the officers of the Company with such magisterial or other powers as might conduce to the preservation of order and the security of the Company's operations.

With reference to the 9th and concluding article the Duke of Newcastle would not willingly undertake the responsible functions proposed to him, but he will agree to do so, if by those means he can in any degree facilitate the project, and if he finds that the Colonies concur in the proposal.

Subject to these observations, and to such questions of detail as further consideration may elicit, the Duke of Newcastle cordially approves of the Company's proposals, and is prepared to sanction the grants of land contemplated in the 3rd article.

He intends to communicate the scheme, with a copy of this letter, to the Governor General of Canada and the Governor of Vancouver Island, recommending the project to their attentive consideration.

I am &c.,
(Signed,)

C. FORTESCUE.

E. W. WATKIN, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

[Copy.]

The Duke of Newcastle to Governor Douglas.

British Columbia—No. 23.

DOWNING STREET, 1st May, 1863.

SIR,—I enclose copies of a letter addressed to me by Mr. Watkin, on the part of the Atlantic and Pacific Transit and Telegraph Company, in which he transmits the heads of a proposal made by that Company for establishing Telegraphic and Postal communication between British Columbia and the head of Lake Superior. I also enclose copies of the answer which I caused to be returned to that letter, and of a despatch which I have addressed to the Governor General of Canada on the subject.

This proposal, I apprehend, to be made in the confident expectation that the Canadian Government, will provide similar means of communication up to the head of Lake Superior, and that means will be adopted for completing the communication by Railway from Halifax to Montreal, thus establishing a chain of Telegraphic communication and facilitating enormously the rapid transit of letters and passengers across British North America.

I need hardly insist on the advantages which such an enterprise, if completed in all its parts, will confer on the British Colonies on the Pacific. It is difficult to say whether they will be greater in war or peace.

In war, the rapid communication of intelligence will relieve those Colonies from the constant apprehension of surprise by an enemy, and will give to the Harbours of Vancouver Island, as a station for Her Majesty's Navy, an importance immeasurably beyond what they can at present attain.

In peace, it can hardly fail to add a powerful and healthy stimulus to that immigration which is principally waiting to develop the resources of the Colonies.

I should hope that the Colonists—without whose concurrence I am by no means desirous of proceeding—will agree with me in thinking that the guarantee of £12,500 per annum to be paid (if necessary) by British Columbia and Vancouver Island, in such proportions as the two Governments may agree upon, is no unreasonable price for advantages of so great magnitude.

I have had no hesitation in giving a conditional consent, on the part of the Imperial Government, to the grants of land contemplated in the first and third of the conditions set forth in the enclosed paper, and I shall transmit a copy of this despatch and of its enclosures to Canada, recommending the project to the consideration of the Canadian Government.

I have to request that you will submit these papers to the Legislature of Vancouver Island, and will ascertain the sentiments of the inhabitants of British Columbia respecting the proposed undertaking, and I shall receive with great satisfaction the intelligence that laws are to be enacted which will enable you, if the Canadian Government shall afford their co-operation in the matter, to conclude in detail an arrangement with the company on the basis of the enclosed proposals.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

NEWCASTLE.

Governor Douglas, C. B.,

&c.,

&c.,

&c.

(Copy.)

No. 46.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Quebec, May 8, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,—I have the honor to enclose a memorial from the people of Red River, on the subject of the establishment of communication between Canada and British Columbia.

This despatch will be delivered to your Grace by Mr. Sandford Fleming, who has been deputed by the memorialists to act on their behalf, and to submit their views to Her Majesty's Government. Mr. Fleming is anxious to be allowed to place your Grace in possession of the information which he has acquired on the matters to which the memorial relates.

I have, &c.,

(Signed.)

MONCK.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K. G.,
&c., &c., &c.

(Copy.)

Canada—No. 67.

DOWNING STREET,
4th July, 1863.

MY LORD,—I duly received your Lordship's despatch, No. 46, of the 8th May, transmitting a memorial from the people of the Red River on the subject of the establishment of a communication between Canada and British Columbia, and introducing to me Mr. Sandford Fleming, who was deputed by the memorialists to act on their behalf.

I am happy to say that there appear to be good prospects of fulfilling the object of their wishes, and I have the honor to enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter addressed by my direction to Mr. Fleming.

I have, &c.,

(Signed.)

NEWCASTLE.

Viscount Monck,
&c., &c., &c.

[Copy.]

[Mr. Elliot to Mr. Fleming.]

DOWNING STREET,
29th June, 1863.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 10th instant, I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to acquaint you that he has given his best attention to the memorial which was entrusted to you by the inhabitants of the Red River settlement on the establishment of a regular communication with Canada.

The question of forming such a communication has long been under his Grace's anxious consideration, and at length he has every reason to hope that it will shortly be accomplished.

A scheme is in preparation, and almost matured, for establishing a postal and telegraphic communication, embracing the Red River Settlement in the route between Canada and British Columbia, with the aid of those two colonies, which have already been addressed on the subject, and by means of a concession to the promoters of the enterprise, of land in the district of country which is free from the rights of the Hudson's Bay Company, the Duke of Newcastle trusts that the execution of the project will be entered upon at no distant date.

I am, &c.,

(Signed,)

T. F. ELLIOT.

Sandford Fleming, Esq.

1st Session, 8th Parliament, 27 Victoria, 1863.

RETURN

To an Address, dated 3rd September, 1863,
for all papers and documents, reports,
despatches, &c., in relation to opening
up the Territory commonly called the
North West Territory.

Ordered by the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY to
be printed, 23rd September, 1863.

Printed 5th October, 1863.

Hon. Mr. McGEE.

QUEBEC:

PRINTED FOR THE CONTRACTORS BY HUNTER,
BOSE & LEMIEUX, ST. VESULE STREET.

